

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 12648 01 OF 02 241949Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 030594

R 241929Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9415

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12648

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: NATO DECLARATION

REF: (A) STATE 102142; (B) STATE 104830

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN REF B, WE
UNDERLINED TO QUAI OFFICIAL US DESIRE TO ADDRESS UK
TEXT. HE DESCRIBED FRENCH NEGATIVE REACTION TO SEVERAL
ASPECTS OF UK DRAFT. WE CANNOT PREDICT WITH CONFIDENCE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 12648 01 OF 02 241949Z

WHETHER NEW GISCARD GOVERNMENT WILL REACT DIFFERENTLY,

ONCE IT HAS HAD TIME TO REVIEW THE SITUATION. END
SUMMARY.

2. WE DREW ON GUIDANCE IN REF B PARAS 1-3 IN CONVERSATION WITH SCHRICKE (QUAI CHIEF OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT OFFICE) MAY 24. SCHRICKE RESPONDED THAT FRENCH AND MOST OTHER NATO ALLIES WERE SURPRISED THAT, AT THIS LATE POINT IN TIME, NEW TEXT OF NATO DECLARATION WOULD BE SURFACED SUDDENLY IN NATO. HE SAID IT SEEMED STRANGE THAT FRENCH TEXT ON WHICH BROAD, IF NOT COMPLETE, AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED SHOULD BE SET ASIDE IN THIS WAY. RATHER THAN ACCEPTING UK TEXT AS BEST BASIS FOR FUTURE DRAFTING, SCHRICKE SAID FRENCH WOULD PREFER TO LOOK ON UK DRAFT AS COMPILATION OF SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO BASIC NATO (I.E., FRENCH) DRAFT WHICH HAS BEEN LYING DORMANT FOR SOME TIME.

3. SCHRICKE NOTED THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING AND HE WAS NOT SURE THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON TEXT IN TIME FOR THAT MEETING. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIVELY SATISFACTORY TEXT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE NOTED, IN PASSING, THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INDICATIONS (APPARENTLY FROM FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON) THAT US MIGHT HAVE IN MIND UTILIZING DECLARATION AT SOME TIME AFTER OTTAWA MINISTERIAL, E.G., FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO EUROPE (SCHRICKE'S WORDS). WE RESPONDED THAT WHILE US FELT THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE OPEN FOR TIME BEING THE QUESTION OF HOW TEXT WOULD BE PUBLISHED, WE HOPE THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON TEXT PRIOR TO OTTAWA MEETING SO THAT DECLARATION CAN BE ISSUED AT THAT TIME IF DESIRED.

4. SCHRICKE DID NOT EXPRESS STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12648 02 OF 02 241942Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 241929Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 12648

EXDIS

WHETHER TEXT SHOULD BE ISSUED AS SEPARATE DECLARATION,
AS DECLARATION ANNEXED TO MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE, OR AS
INTEGRAL PART OF COMMUNIQUE ITSELF. WE UNDERLINED OUR
STRONG FEELING THAT TEXT SHOULD BE ISSUED AS DECLARATION.

5. WITHOUT EXCLUDING ADDITIONAL AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT
WITH UK TEXT, SCHRICKE NOTED THREE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS
THAT THE FRENCH HAVE WITH NEW DRAFT: (A) UK DRAFT DROPS
ANY REFERENCE TO CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN UNITY; (B) UK
TREATMENT OF CONSULTATION SEEMS TOO VAGUE TO FRENCH. FOR
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PAGE 02 PARIS 12648 02 OF 02 241942Z

EXAMPLE, REFERRING TO "MAINTENANCE OF CLOSE CONSULTATION,
COOPERATION AND MUTUAL TRUST" (REF A, PARA 8), SCHRICKE
SAID "CONSULTATIONS AT WHAT TIME, ON WHAT SUBJECT AND
AMONG WHOM?"; (C) FRENCH QUESTION DROPPING DISTINCTION
BETWEEN THREAT AGAINST UNITED STATES AND THREAT AGAINST
EUROPE, I.E., IDEA THAT PROBLEM OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE IS
ASSUMING AN INCREASINGLY DISTINCT CHARACTER.

6. COMMENT: QUITE CLEARLY, FRENCH ARE PUT OUT BY TURN
OF EVENTS THAT MAY SEE THEIR DRAFT DECLARATION PUSHED
ASIDE TO MAKE WAY FOR UK DRAFT. MOREOVER, FRENCH ARE
MORE THAN A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS THAT BRITISH WERE PUT UP

TO THIS BY U.S. (POINT WHICH SCHRICKE MADE TO US
SEVERAL TIMES). UNDER PREVIOUS POMPIDOU-JOBERT REGIME,
WE COULD PREDICT WITH ACCURACY HOSTILE AND TENACIOUS
FRENCH REACTION TO LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON NATO DECLARA-
TION. WE CANNOT PREDICT WITH CONFIDENCE, HOWEVER,
WHETHER NEW GISCARD GOVERNMENT WILL REACT DIFFERENTLY IN
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, ONCE IT HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO
REVIEW THE SITUATION.
STONE

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